

STUDIES ON MAILE CULTIVATION*

Michael J. Tanabe
College of Agriculture
University of Hawaii at Hilo
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Various preliminary studies on maile (Alyxia olivaeformis Gaud.) cultivation were conducted to determine the optimum conditions necessary for plant propagation and growth as a horticultural crop. Other studies are presently being conducted to support and supplement those studies.

Maile can be propagated from seeds or stem cuttings. Seed germination rate can be increased by pre-soaking treatments with water and growth regulators such as gibberellic acid. Multiple and single node stem cuttings can be rooted by treatment with rooting compounds.

Shade studies revealed that plant growth rate can be accelerated by different light intensities. Light intensities between 2000-5000 foot-candles result in increased growth rate, whereas, light intensities less than 400 foot-candles result in much reduced growth rates. Maile is also capable of surviving under less than 100 foot-candles but growth is minimal.